

TAIYO50.001APC

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#8/Prelimolt
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Applicant : Hachiro Seno) Group Art Unit Unknown
Int'l Appl. No. : PCT/JP00/03952)
Int'l Filing Date: June 16, 2000)
For : CATHETER)
Examiner : Unknown)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned U.S.

National Phase Application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Prior to the first line of the specification on page 1, please insert the following paragraph:

--This application is the U.S. National Phase under 35 U.S.C. §371 of International Application PCT/JP00/03952, filed June 16, 2000, which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 11/170025, filed June 16, 1999. The International Application was not published under PCT Article 21(2) in English.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3-7 as follows:

3. (Amended) The catheter of Claim 1, further comprising a cuff for fixing said catheter to an abdominal portion.

4. (Amended) The catheter of Claim 1, wherein said groove is formed along an entire length of said tip end portion.